

ROCKET CITY ROCKS & GEMS



The Monthly News Bulletin of the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society, Huntsville, Alabama

Volume 55 No. 4

"We'll go to the Moon for a Rock"

April 2023

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HGMS Membership Meeting - April 25, 6:00

John Wild with Milcom Textiles from Boaz will discuss what the William Holland School of Arts on a scenic mountaintop in Young Harris Georgia is all about, with opportunities for Classes, fellowship, and relaxation.



Web Page - www.huntsvillegms.org/ email - hsvgems@gmail.com



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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

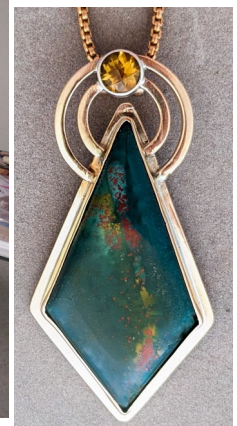
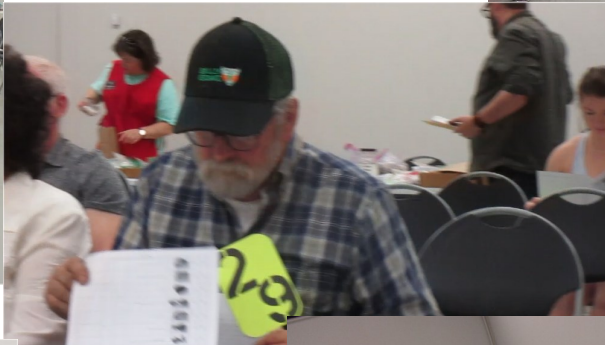
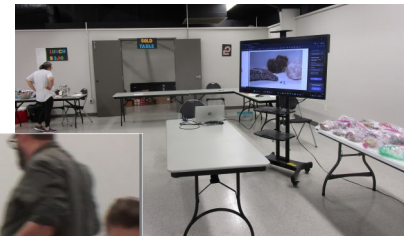
I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the Auction possible;

The folks that generously donated things. The people who helped with set up and tear down. The crew who made sure everyone got what they bought. The check in / check out people. All the people who staffed the enormous Buy-It-Now tables. The food seller. The runners. The bidders. The auctioneer Chad Campbell and his son who did a marvelous job of keeping the bidding spirited and smooth.. Thanks to every one who's been working on this the last five months or so.

Every year we apply lessons learned from previous auctions and this year was no exception. The catalog took a lot of work but it was extremely useful for bidders to anticipate their target purchases. The big screen TV made it unnecessary to carry the items around for potential bidders to look close. We had the building available from early till late on Friday and again on Saturday with no hassle about getting in and setting up or storing the left-overs.

And we made a bit of money, over \$5000 to keep the Club going for another year.

Shelley Curran





Metal Smithing/Silver Group by Kathy Bowman & Shelley Curran

May Metals Project SADDLE RING Offered on May 1st and 4th, 5-9:00 pm

May's project is a saddle ring. Your design can be simple or elaborate, it's up to you and your skill level. Newbies, don't shy away from this project, you can do a simpler version. We'll have templates for the basic shape to help you get started.



We'll be learning to correctly calculate a ring blank length to size (yes, we're gonna do the math.), manipulate heavier gauge metal and learn to use the ring bending tool, stone setting and adding embellishments if you wish, and proper clean up, finishing and polishing.

We'll have texturing options available. I'll have a few small cups, stones and embellishments for sale also.

Please sign up with Kathy. I need to know as soon as possible in case I need to order anything. For those who wish to work in silver this is especially important.

Kit cost has not been determined yet as it depends on the materials you wish to use. Silver will be available at Market price.

Certification/Safety Classes: The next Certification/Safety Class will be Monday, April 17- (Note Date Change!) Please send your name and contact information (name, email address, and cell phone number (for text messages) to Certifications@wilddivystudio.com to get on the list for the next Certification Class. The class is almost full so send you request soon. Seats will be filled in the order I receive them. If you end up on the wait list, you will be added to the next scheduled class which will probably in June- the date is TBD.

CERTIFICATION CLASS INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

After Certification Class dates are set, email notices with information about the class(es) will be sent to everyone who is currently on the request list about a week before the scheduled date. You must reply to that email to be scheduled for the class or to request a future class. One reminder email will be sent to those who do not respond to the first email. If there is no reply after the 2nd email, **your name will be removed from Certification Requests list.** If you are still interested in Certification, you will have to send in your information again to get on the current list

Facebook Users: The Metalsmithing class has our own page in Facebook groups. You can see info on classes, examples of project classes and other general information. Members of the group can post their finished class projects. Out class page is HGMS Metalsmithing Group. The link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/438777169648170>

Volunteer Positions *

- | | |
|---|--|
| Class Instructors: | Kathy Bowman
Shelley Curran
Jan Edmunds |
| Tools/Equipment Inventory
Store Manager
Kit Manager | Annie Diekmann
Opening
Shelley Curran |
| Webpage & Social Media Management | Kathy Bowman |

***Note: We are all volunteers, so the schedule is subject to change.**



Rocket City Jewelers (RCJ) News *By Leslie Malakowsky*

Hello jewelry makers! RCJ is open to all HGMS members 16 and older. All skill levels are welcome!



2nd Quarter 2023 Classes:

April 19: Hexapetalon Pendant w/Rivoli. Kit contains rings and Rivoli crystal. Bring 2pairs, 1/4" (large) flat nose pliers.

May 3: Copper Pipe Bracelet. Kit contains copper pipe, wire, and rings. We'll make the clasp. Bring 10 – 14, 6mm beads of your choice. Stamps provided.

May 17: Red-White-Blue Cylon Bracelet. A new chainmaille weave for most folks! Kit contains 3 sizes of rings. Bring both a 1/4" (large) and a 1/8" (small) pair of flat nose pliers.

June 7: Donut "Fortune's Wheel". Check it out on Pinterest! Kit contains a 30mm stone donut, 24g silver craft wire, and 4mm silver beads. If you have a donut, wire, and/or beads you prefer, bring them!

June 21 & June 28: Double-Drilled Byzantine (DD Byz) Bracelet. You need to order your own double-drilled stone beads and jump rings. (Judy can also cut copper rings if you prefer. You'll need to pay her for club wire and the cutting fee. *Request this by no later than the end of May.*) Kit contains beading wire, wire guards, crimps, crimp covers, and a clasp. *Check Judy's 3/17 email for more details including prices.*

Number Beads by Bracelet Length: **Number 18g, 4mm Jump Rings by Bracelet Length:**
10 (8"), 11 (8.5"), 12 (9") 225 (8"), 262 (8.5"), 281 (9")

Online Vendors:

limabeads.com for 10x20mm double-drilled rounded rectangle beads (19-20 beads per strand).

artbeads.com for Dakota Stone, 10x20mm, double-drilled rectangle beads (19-20 beads per strand).

weavegotmaille.com OR *amazon.com* for Enameled Copper (EC) rings.

Meeting Times/Reservations:

We meet for Classes from 6p-9p on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

We meet for Make Up/Finish Up from 2p-5p on 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays.

The front doors will be unlocked for the first hour. After that, the doors will be locked, and you'll need to call Judy or Theresa to let you in.

Class signups will begin for each respective quarter in: **Feb - 2nd Quarter**, May - 3rd Quarter, Aug - 4th Quarter. Our classroom holds 16-20 students. Overflow may carry over to our Make Up/Finish It days.

Signup sheets will be available at RCJ meetings, at HGMS meetings, or contact Theresa Chivers **a month before class** at: rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com.

NOTE: If you are signed up for a class, you are responsible for the cost of that class and for attending. We send out texts and/or emails often. Some kind of reply is necessary, please.

NEW POLICY: Anyone who has missed more than 1 class without prior notification, will be placed on a wait list for the next class they are interested in. If there is room available, they will be notified 1 week prior to that class.

Volunteers:

Point of Contact/Kit Reservations/Security	Theresa Chivers
Instructors	Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky
Kit Manager/Treasurer/Security	Judy Osmundson
Membership/Publicity/Inventory	Leslie Malakowsky



Pebble Pups - Thursday April 27, 6:30

We are still part of the Future Rockhounds of America, and will still be working on the merit badges that they offer. We just changed our name.



Boy do we have a packed month this month!

On the 22nd we are going to Cathedral Caverns and we need to know if you are going! We have had some replies but we do not quite have the 20-person threshold to get the group discount. So I'm opening it up to the general membership. YES! The means we want any HGMS member who is interested to let me or Bill Friday know so we can get to that magic number of 20 or more and secure the group discount. That is youth and adults, 13-93 normally \$20 will be only \$15. Children, 3-12 normally \$9 will be \$8. **GPS 34.5719856,-86.2293459, or 34° 34' 25.35" 86° 13' 17.70"**



Field Trips



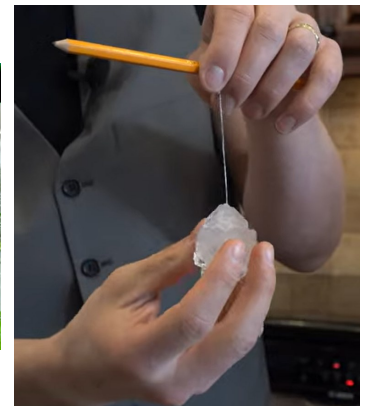
Earth Processes

We will meet at Cathedral Caverns at 10:30 AM at 637 Cave Road, Woodville, AL 35776, with a bring your own picnic lunch after the tour. Remember the tour is 90minutes and the temperature in the cave will be a consistent 58 degrees, so you may want to bring a light jacket.

Our monthly meeting will be April 27th at 6:30 PM. We will be talking about crystal formations, geodes and you will get the chance to take home a and grow your very own crystal formation. We will have all you will need!

And lastly, if you missed the March meeting with Eric Silkowski, you missed a very fun program! He told us about his cave adventures and showed a slide show of the places he has been spelunking! We had a wonderful time and that is the reason we are going to Cathedral Caverns!

And don't forget to bring you "show-and-tell" specimens! And any extra credit projects from past meetings! So come one and all to the most rock-happy fun you can have in an hour!
Your Pebble Pups Team





This coming weekend April 22nd, Apologies for the late notice

Join the Pebble Pups for a tour of the Cathedral Caverns near Grant AL

We will meet at Cathedral Caverns at 10:30 AM at 637 Cave Road, Woodville, AL 35776, with a bring your own picnic lunch after the tour. Remember the tour is 90minutes and the temperature in the cave will be a consistent 58 degrees, so you may want to bring a light jacket.

GPS 34.5719856,-86.2293459, or 34° 34' 25.35" 86° 13' 17.70"

<https://www.alapark.com/parks/cathedral-caverns-state-park>

Let Bill Friday know as soon as possible, 256-527-8227, bill.Friday@earthlink.net so we can get to that magic number of 20 or more and secure the group discount. That is youth and adults, 13-93 normally \$20 will be only \$15. Children, 3-12 normally \$9 will be \$8.



Brad's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon www.BradSmithJewelry.com For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering and polishing.



SAWING SMALL TUBING

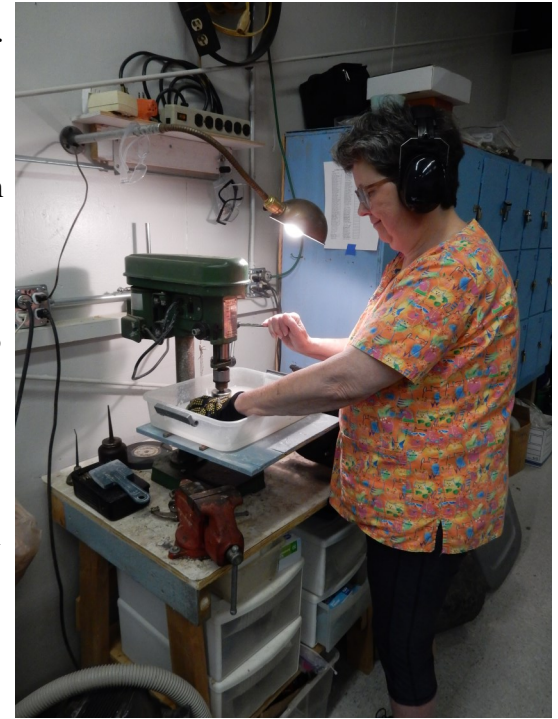
When making a hinged bracelet, I needed to cut 16 pieces of small diameter silver tubing. These were to be just approximate lengths and trimmed to final size after soldering. Not having a tube cutter, I had trouble holding the tubing on the bench pin while trying to saw through it.

So here's what I did. I drilled a hole in the side of the bench pin just large enough for the tubing to slide into and almost as deep as the length of cut tubing I wanted. Sawing became quick and easy. With my free hand, I inserted the tubing and held it from rotating while sawing off each length.



Susan Payton came to the HGMS to cut up old, but very nice, dishes. She had been cutting out the pretty parts of the plate patterns at home, using a tile saw - slow, laborious, and likely to break a dish in the wrong place. Then she found the HGMS Lapidary Lab with all those nice saws. Using the trim saw she could cut out the shape with excess around the edges to be ground away. She asked about hole saws, and found a diamond edged set online with many different sizes, 1/2" up to 2", and very affordable. Using the drill press in the lab, with a pan of water under the dish, she began cutting circles - no waste, no breakage, very little trimming afterward, and in a few evenings she had a box full of very nice pieces. She crafts them into jewelry in various ways - brooches, necklaces, earrings, with wire wrapping and glued on clasps. She finds the dishes at yard sales, estate sales, and antique stores, usually one-of-a-kinds from the back of someone's dish cabinet, and usually inexpensive.

Slowly HGMS expands our reputation of being the best kept secret in town. Spread the word. Come on down, and have fun.



William Holland and Wildacres Art Schools 2023 Drawing at the April Meeting

HGMS is offering two \$200 Scholarships this year to the Major Arts Schools. The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) is sponsoring special weekends at both William Holland and Wildacres for members of the HGMS. Winners may use their scholarship for these or any week at either school. The drawing for the two primary and two alternate winners will be held during the April Membership Meeting. If you are interested in participating, send your request to hsvgems@gmail.com. If you are interested in applying for the drawing, get your classes confirmed now at the School of your choice or the class may be filled prior to the drawing.

Fall Show Yard Signs

There are still many Fall Show yard signs still out. Please return any which you may still have at home to the Education Center or to a Monthly Meeting, even ones from previous years, so they can be updated for this year's Show. They are expensive to replace.

Thanks, Tony Smith, Show Chairman



Mineral of the Month – Ametrine

By *Leslie A. Malakowsky*



Ametrine is a color-zoned variety of quartz (silicon dioxide, SiO₂) in which the colors of the amethyst and citrine quartz varieties occur in the same mineral. The amethyst portion can be pink, magenta, violet, or blue (rare). The citrine portion can be orange, orange-yellow, or yellow. The most common color combinations are purple or violet and yellow or orange. The different colors in ametrine are due to different *oxidation states* (the degree of oxidation of an impurity) of iron impurities within the mineral. The oxidation of iron in ametrine differs because of the temperature gradient (the rate at which temperature changed) across the mineral as it formed. The iron in the citrine portion is oxidized while the iron in the amethyst portion is unoxidized.

Fun fact: A slab of ametrine cut perpendicular to the c axis of the crystal looks something like a pinwheel.

Like other minerals in the quartz family, ametrine is a tectosilicate or “framework silicate”, which means that it has a silicate framework linked together through shared oxygen atoms. Ametrine has a Mohs hardness of 7 and a vitreous (glassy) luster. Its refractive index (a number that indicates a mineral’s tendency to bend transmitted light) is such that it can be transparent or translucent. (For more information on ametrine’s properties, please see your favorite mineral reference.)

Natural ametrine is rare. There’s only one commercial source: a deposit in Eastern Bolivia, at the Anahi Mine, near the Brazilian border. Here, ametrine occurs in veins running through dolomitic limestone. According to legend, ametrine was first introduced to Europe by a Spanish conquistador’s gifts to the Spanish Queen in the 1600s. He received the mine in Bolivia as a dowry when he married a native Ayoreo (an indigenous Bolivian people) princess. After that, the mine was lost for more than three centuries. Ametrine began appearing on the market in the 1970s. Today, the Anahi Mine produces ametrine, amethyst, and citrine.

Ametrine is also known as *trystine* or by its trade name *bolivianite*. It’s popular for collecting and jewelry making. It’s contrasting colors give it an intriguing appearance. Stones with intense colors and marked contrasts are more valuable. Large crystals make nice specimens, and rough can be tumbled, and cut and polished into cabochons, beads, and faceted gemstones. Because it’s found in large crystals, ametrine’s value per carat doesn’t increase as much as it does with other gemstones, so it’s relatively inexpensive despite its rarity. (For information on fine ametrine gemstone, see www.gia.edu.) Buyer beware: green-yellow or golden-blue ametrine is synthesized!



This month’s mineral was requested by HGMS member Mark Habercom! If you have a mineral you’d like featured in the newsletter, please email me at lmalakowsky@gmail.com. References: wikipedia.org, mindat.org, jewellermagazine.com

April Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Anne Deikman | 19 Bill Lokken |
| 9 Nova Hilley | 20 Jan Edmunds |
| 11 Leslie Malakowsky | 22 Alex McCormick |
| 11 Anita Owen | 23 Bill Friday |
| 18 Alex Forscher | 27 Don Aldridge |
| 19 Thelia DeMoor | 30 Shirley Bruce |



April
Diamond

7 Joe & Sherrie Bonin

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Bryan Harris | 22 Mike Chivers |
| 5 Myra Soroczak | 25 Maureen Priddy |
| 6 Phil Lester | 27 Chris Kalange |
| 14 Joe Bonin | 29 Ruth Finckenor |
| 16 Mike Curran | 30 Mike Bowman |
| 17 Jeff Finckenor | 30 Jim Treadway |
- Raymond Tanner

Anniversaries

- 1 Deborah & John Wright
- 6 John & Julie McCullough
- 17 Gerdy & David Wyatt
- 18 Mike & Anne Wesley
- 23 Greg & Anita Blunier
- 29 David & Diana O'Dell



May
Emerald

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education, 7901 Bailey Cove Rd. SE, Huntsville AL 35802

Metal Smithing Instructors: Shelley Curran, Kathy Bowman, Jan Edmunds

Lapidary: Bill Friday, James Yack, Bruce Kowalczyk, Anthony Zwilling, Les Bartel

Rocket City Jewelers: Judy Osmundson, Theresa Chivers, Leslie Malakowsky

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton, Mike Harrison, Angela Mendoza, Bill Friday

Monday	Metal Smithing Lapidary Lapidary	5:30pm - 9:00pm 1st Monday each month 9:45am-2:00pm [except May] 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday	Lapidary HGMS Meetings	9:00am - 2:00pm 6:00pm - 8:30pm 4th Tuesdays
Wednesday	Lapidary Rocket City Jewelers 1st & 3rd Weeks - Rocket City Jewelers 2nd, 4th, 5th Weeks -	6:00pm - 9:00pm 6:00pm - 9:00pm 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Thursday	Lapidary Metal Smithing Pebble Pups	6:00pm - 9:00pm 5:00pm - 9:00pm 6:30pm 4th Thursdays
Friday	Lapidary	6:00pm - 9:00pm
Saturday	Metal Smithing	9:00am - 3:00pm irregular 1st Saturday of the Month



2023 HUNTSVILLE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

President– Anthony Zwillling - afzwillling@gmail.com

Vice President - Bill Friday - bill.Friday@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary: James Yack - jamesgyack@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194 - claragoode1@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Bill Friday - 256-527-8227 - bill.friday@earthlink.net

Past President: Mike Harrison - campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Directors:

Gene Powers - genepowersgddm@gmail.com

Les Bartel - lester.bartel@gmail.com

Shelley Curran - curranshelley1@gmail.com

Theresa Chivers - rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Property: Michael Cape

macape@knology.net

Program Chair—Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Webpage: Leslie Malakowsky,

lmalakowsky@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Shelley Curran

curranshelley1@gmail.com

Membership: Theresa Chivers

rocketcityjewelers@gmail.com

Field Trips: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Hospitality: Mike Harrison

campcraft.mike@gmail.com

Pebble Pups: Dee Dee Morton

deemorton@hotmail.com

Show Chair: Tony Smith, 256-603-3095.

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Vendor Chair: Lowell Zoller, 256-534-8803

Lzol@comcast.net

Show Publicity Chair - Tony Smith

tsmith@erc-incorporated.com

Show Treasurer: Clara Goode, 256-883-9194

claragoode1@comcast.net

Mineral ID: Lowell Zoller

Lzol@comcast.net

Facility Administrator: Bill Friday

bill.friday@earthlink.net

Publicity: Open

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY: The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society is a non-profit educational organization for people interested in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and related lapidary arts. Its primary purpose is the education and enjoyment of the members and the general public in these areas. This purpose is accomplished through programs and activities, shows, lectures to school children and organizations, and exchange of rocks, minerals, artifacts, and newsletters.

DUES: Annual dues are \$20.00 per person, \$25.00 per family, and are due on January 1st of each year

Membership Applications may be found at our webpage www.Huntsvillegms.org or at the HGMS Education Center during a meeting or at one of our activity periods: 7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 35802

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month except for March Auction, June picnic, Christmas Dinner and major holidays.

The Society is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies , the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Dixie Mineral Council

Federation Newsletters: DMC: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm>

SFMS: <https://www.southeastfed.org/newsletter> - new, under construction

AFMS: www.amfed.org/news/default.htm

2023 CALENDAR

- 25 Apr '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 23 May '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 27 Jun '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 25 Jul '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6::00pm
- 22 Aug '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 26 Sep '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- 13-15 Oct '23 - HGMS Fall Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show
Jaycee Building, 2180 Airport Rd, Huntsville AL
- 24 Nov '23 - Regular HGMS Meeting, Huntsville Gem & Mineral Education Center
7901 Bailey Cove Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 6:00pm
- Dec '23 - Christmas Dinner - Date, time, and place to be determined

Deadline for Next Newsletter
May 14, 2023

Dated material
Do not delay

April 2023

Rocket City Rocks & Gems
Bill Friday, Editor
2508 Excalibur Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35803